

DATE 1728Z 28 MAY 63

SECRET

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5	6	7	8
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TO : DIRECTOR

FROM :

ACTION: OSA (1-15)

INFO : S/C (16)

TOR: 1802Z 28 MAY 63

7-00
PRIORITY

IN 77930

TO : PRITY

INFO

CITE 9698

OXCART SECUR

NO NIGHT ACTION

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM ITEM IN LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL
28 MAY ISSUE, MORNING EDITION:

"THE AIR FORCE IDENTIFIED MONDAY THE PILOT WHO BAILED OUT
OF HIS STRICKEN F-105 THUNDERCHIEF JET FIGHTER NEAR THE NEVADA-
UTAH BORDER FRIDAY. OFFICIALS AT NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE SAID
HE IS KEN COLLINS CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF HUGHES AIRCRAFT CO.

THE \$2.5 MILLION CRAFT CRASHED AND BURNED NEAR WENDOVER, UTAH.

THE AIR FORCE REFUSED FOR TWO DAYS TO NAME THE PILOT. WHEN
IT DID IDENTIFY HIM, THE AIR FORCE DID NOT GIVE COLLIN'S AGE,
HOME TOWN OR CITY OF EMPLOYMENT. HUGHES AIRCRAFT, HOWEVER,
HAS A MAJOR PLANT AT SANTA MONICA, CALIF. NELLIS OFFICIALS
SAID COLLINS WAS OPERATING THE FIGHTER PLANE ON LOAN TO HUGHES
DURING ELECTRONIC DEVELOPMENT. THE PLANE TOOK OFF FROM NELLIS.
IT IS ORDINARILY ASSIGNED TO WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE IN
OHIO. A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

GROUP 1
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downgrading and
declassification

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S E C R E T

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IN 77930

PAGE TWO

"THE DELAY IN ANNOUNCING THE NAME OF THE PILOT RESULTED FROM QUERYING NOT ONLY WITH THE MILITARY, BUT WITH THE HUGHES AIRCRAFT CO., OVER THE WEEKEND, AND MAKING CERTAIN THAT THE RELATIVES OF THE PILOT WERE PROPERLY REASSURED OF HIS SAFETY", THE AIR FORCE SAID. NAMES OF PILOTS WHO BAIL OUT SAFELY ARE USUALLY MADE PUBLIC IMMEDIATELY. THE BAIL OUT AND SUBSEQUENT CRASH WERE THE SECOND IN TWO DAYS. AN AIR FORCE PILOT ON A REFUELING MISSION HAD TO BAIL OUT OF HIS THUNDERCHIEF THURSDAY WHEN THE SINGLE-ENGINE JET DEVELOPED TROUBLE".

2. LAS VEGAS "SUN" T.V. AND RADIO STATIONS NEGATIVE AS OF 0930L 28 MAY.

END OF MESSAGE

S E C R E T